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Technical cooperation among developing countries

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HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Tenth session
New York, 5-9 May 1997

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Administrator

1. By its resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly requested the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, at its ninth session from 30 May to 2 June 1995, to include in its agenda an item entitled "New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries".

2. By its resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995, the General Assembly endorsed the report of the Committee on its ninth session, including the recommendations and decisions contained therein, and reiterated the continued validity of all the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the importance of technical cooperation among developing countries.

3. In its resolution 50/119, the General Assembly also endorsed the recommendations contained in the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/9/3) which, among other things, call for the adoption of a more strategic orientation for technical cooperation among developing countries focusing on priority issues, such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, and macroeconomic policy coordination, as well as education, health, the transfer of technology and rural development, which are likely to have a major development impact on a large number of developing countries.

4. By its decision 38/441 of 19 December 1983, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Committee on the work of its third session and thereby of the following arrangements for the fourth and subsequent sessions, as outlined in paragraph 81 of the report:

(a) The session will be scheduled for a duration of up to one week prior to the annual session of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board. In conformity with the arrangements set out above, the general debate will be conducted in plenary meeting from 5 to 7 May 1997;

(b) In accordance with the views and suggestions expressed during the debate, the Working Group will meet as of the third working day of the session to elaborate draft decisions and recommendations. Thus, two simultaneous meetings are required for only one day during the Committee's session.

5. The annex to the present note contains a tentative programme of work for the session. The Committee may wish to decide that, once the speakers' list for the plenary meetings on 5 and 7 May is exhausted, and if sufficient meeting time remains, the Working Group would be convened immediately thereafter, thereby ensuring full utilization of the available conference services.

6. All meetings will be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In view of the limited time and services at the Committee's disposal, it will be important that all meetings start promptly at the scheduled time. In an effort to make the best use of all services, and in line with the practice of the General Assembly and other bodies, it is also suggested that, for the current session, the Committee waive the part of rule 16 of its rules of procedure (TCDC/2/Rev.1), which stipulates that the President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the States participating are present.

7. To plan for the efficient conduct of the three-day general debate on items 5, 6 and 7 of the provisional agenda (TCDC/10/L.1), it is proposed that a list of speakers be opened at United Nations Development Programme headquarters, Division of External Relations (telephone 906-5751) on Tuesday, 15 April 1997, and closed at 6 p.m. on Monday, 5 May 1997. Following past practice as endorsed by the General Assembly, it is proposed that statements in the general debate be limited to no more than 10 minutes for representatives of States and 7 minutes for other participants. In order to save time, several States or groups of States sharing common positions may wish to consider presenting joint statements. Delegations wishing to have their statements circulated to all participants are requested to provide 300 copies to the secretariat, which will arrange for their circulation in the language or languages received.

8. Rule 10 of the Committee's rules of procedure stipulates that its officers are the President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. The Working Group may wish to follow the practice of previous sessions whereby the Vice-President presiding over the Working Group would serve as its Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. Based on previous practice and taking into account General Assembly decision 33/417 of 14 December 1978 on the organization of the work of United Nations bodies, it is urged that the regional groups start consultations on the nomination of candidates to fill those elective posts well in advance of the session with a view to agreeing on a slate of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled, thus allowing all offices of the Committee to be elected by acclamation and dispensing with the requirement for secret balloting.

Notes

Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/38/39).